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Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI :—" May I ask whether it is not a fact that all the members of this caste are extremely poor ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Not all, Sir."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR : —" Is there any limit to the value of trees, which might be granted free ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" Notice, Sir ; I am not aware of it."

Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU :—" Who is to judge as to the poverty of any applicant to entitle him to remission ? "

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—" The officer making the grant, Sir."

Forests

Transfer of ryots' forests to the Revenue Department.

*1761 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased (i) to place before the House, in view of the transfer of ryots' forests to the Revenue Department for management by panchayats, a statement showing as standing on 30th September 1928—

(*a*) the number of divisions, ranges and forests abolished ; and

(*b*) the number of conservators, deputy assistant and extra assistant conservators, rangers and other establishment of forests reduced, each cadre and grade being shown separately ; and (ii) to state—

(*a*) how the holders of the reduced or abolished appointments have been otherwise employed in the Forest Department or elsewhere ;

(*b*) whether any of the rangers thrown out of the department have been transferred to the Revenue Department to supervise or advise the panchayats managing ryots' forests, and if so, how many ; and

(*c*) why more of them are not employed in that capacity ?

A.—i (*a*)—

	Number abolished.
Divisions	7
Ranges	28

The proposals for reduction in the staff of foresters are under consideration.

(*b*)—

Designation.	Number.	Number to be reduced to.
Conservators (including Chief Conservator)	7	7
Deputy and Assistant Conservators ...	57	50
(Madras Forest Service) Extra Assistant Conservators	40	32
Rangers	203	179

Foresters [vide answer to clause (*a*) above].

The figures furnished represent only the present proposals which have not yet been accepted by Government. The matter is pending consideration of the question of reorganization of the department.

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ii (*a*) The surplus rangers are treated as supernumeraries to the sanctioned cadre. But an expansion of the activities of the department in the direction of cruising, working plans, exploitation, etc., has since taken place for which, if not for some of this technically supernumerary staff, other additional hands would have had to be employed.

(*b*) & (*c*) Until the question of reorganization is settled, it is naturally not possible to determine the exact cadre the Forest department should have. The difference between the cadre so determined and the cadre which is technically still in force will then represent the actual number of supernumeraries.

The question of employing Rangers in the Revenue Department has been dropped definitely and quite independently of the settlement of this question.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—" With reference to the answer to clause (*b*), it is stated that the number to be reduced to is 7. I want to know why there is no reduction of Conservators ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar:—" Because it is not possible to reduce the number."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Was it not reduced practically to six ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" No, there are seven, including the Chief Conservator."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" Yes, including the Chief Conservator. But may I know whether the number of Conservators was not six for a long time ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Now it is seven."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar :—" My question is, was it not six for some time ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I know whether the question of the reorganization of the Forest department will be considered along with the revision of the policy of the department or separately ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Both are involved in the same question."

Mr. A Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" With reference to clause (*a*), what is the present number, Sir ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Seven."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" How many are there now, Sir ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The existing number is seven."

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I enquire why the number of seven cannot be reduced at all ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Because the exigencies of the department require that there should be as many as that number."

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Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May we have some idea of the exigencies, because for everything they plead exigencies of the matter ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" It depends upon the policy of the Forest department."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" What was the number of rangers at first and what is the present number ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The number is given in the answer. The original number was 203. The present number is also 203, though there is a proposal to reduce it permanently to 179."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao :—" May I know from the hon. the Law Member in view of the last paragraph in the answer, whether the rangers will have nothing to do with the ryots' forests ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" They will have nothing to do."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" In the last sentence of (i) (*b*) it is stated that the matter is pending consideration of the question of reorganization of the department. May I know when Government hope to finish consideration and to what amount this retrenchment works out ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" The Government expect to receive information which has been called for from the Chief Conservator, in the course of one or two months. When the information is received, the whole question will be considered."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" During the course of the budget discussions in 1927, Mr. Tireman, the Chief Conservator of Forests, stated that the reduction would work up to three lakhs. May I know whether Government have considered that question ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" May I take it that for every range there is only one ranger ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" As my hon. Friend knows, about four thousand square miles of forests have been handed over to panchayats, and consequently there will be a reduction in the number of rangers also. What that reduction will be, has to be worked out."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—" May I ask whether the number to be reduced to as stated in the answer, viz., 7, 50, 32 and 179 are only tentative now and whether the question will be finally considered after the question of policy is settled ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" After the policy is settled."

Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo :—" Will the Government think of appointing a committee after all the information is gathered just to scrutinize the whole thing ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar :—" I will consider the question, but as I am at present advised, it is very unlikely."